

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for the aggregation and display of information on a client device, said apparatus comprising:

a communications module delivering information to and receiving information from a client device;

an assimilation agent receiving information from at least one information source and encapsulating said information in a first wrapper using a platform-independent extendible markup language; and

an integration server in communication with said communications module and said assimilation agent, said integration server receiving said encapsulated information from said assimilation agent, said integration server comprising a rules engine for processing said encapsulated information in accord with a predefined set of rules and encapsulating the result in a second wrapper using a platform-independent extendible markup language, and said integration server providing said encapsulated result to said communications module.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said communications module delivers information to and receives information from said client device using one of hypertext markup language (HTML) and wireless markup language (WML).

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said communications module delivers information customized according to a predefined profile.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said communications module delivers information customized according to the type of client device.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said communications module, said integration server, and said assimilation agent communicate using extensible markup language (XML).

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said assimilation agent retrieves information from one of a SQL database, an Oracle database, a Domino database, a document repository, a SAP database, a computer in communication with the Internet, and an indexed database.

- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a content delivery broker providing communications between said communications
3 module and said integration server.
- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said communications provided by said content delivery
2 broker utilize extensible markup language (XML).
- 1 9. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a receiver agent in communication with said integration server and receiving messages
3 sent in a protocol.
- 1 10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said protocol is one of file transfer protocol (FTP), post
2 office protocol, version 3 (POP3), hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), Microsoft Message Queue
3 protocol (MSMQ), simple mail transfer protocol (SMTP), Directory Polling, and component-
4 object model messages (COM).
- 1 11. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a spider agent in communication with said integration server and initiating
3 communications with a data source using a protocol.
- 1 12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said protocol is one of FTP, POP3, HTTP, MSMQ,
2 SMTP, Directory Polling, and COM.
- 1 13. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a sender agent in communication with said integration server and sending messages using
3 a protocol.
- 1 14. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said protocol is one of FTP, POP3, HTTP, MSMQ,
2 SMTP, Directory Polling, and COM.

1 15. A method for aggregating information from multiple sources for presentation to a user,
2 said method comprising the steps:

3 (a) receiving, by an assimilation agent, information from at least one of a plurality of
4 information sources;

5 (b) encapsulating, by the assimilation agent, said received information in a first wrapper
6 using a platform-independent extensible markup language;

7 (c) transmitting, by the assimilation agent, said encapsulated information to an integration
8 server;

9 (d) processing, by the integration server, said encapsulated information in accord with a
10 predefined set of rules;

11 (e) encapsulating, by the integration server, the processed information in a second
12 wrapper using a platform-independent extensible markup language;

13 (f) transmitting, by the integration server, the processed information to a communications
14 module; and

15 (g) delivering, by the communications module, said processed information to a client
16 device.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein step (g) comprises the steps:

2 (g-a) identifying at least one of the type of client device or the type of said processed
3 information.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein step (g) further comprises the steps:

2 (g-b) selecting an XML style sheet based on the result of step (g-a); and

3 (g-c) completing said XML style sheet with said processed information.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein step (g) further comprises the step:

2 (g-d) transforming the result of step (g-c) to a form suitable for display on said client
3 device; and

4 (g-e) providing the result of step (g-d) to said client device.

1 19. An article of manufacture having computer-readable program means embodied therein for
2 aggregating information from multiple sources for presentation to a user, said article comprising:

3 computer-readable program means for receiving, by an assimilation agent, information
4 from at least one of a plurality of information sources;

5 computer-readable program means for encapsulating, by the assimilation agent, said
6 received information in a first wrapper using a platform-independent extensible markup
7 language;

8 computer-readable program means for transmitting, by the assimilation agent, said
9 encapsulated information to an integration server;

10 computer-readable program means for processing, by the integration server, said
11 encapsulated information in accord with a predefined set of rules;

12 computer-readable program means for encapsulating, by the integration server, the
13 processed information in a second wrapper using a platform-independent extensible markup
14 language;

15 computer-readable program means for transmitting, by the integration server, the
16 processed information to a communications module; and

17 computer-readable program means for delivering, by the communications module, said
18 processed information to a client device.

1 20. The article of manufacture of claim 19 wherein said computer-readable program means
2 for delivering, by the communications module, said processed information to a client device
3 comprises:

4 computer-readable program means for identifying at least one of the type of client device
5 or the type of said processed information.

1 21. The article of manufacture of claim 20 wherein said computer-readable program means
2 for delivering, by the communications module, said processed information to a client device
3 further comprises:

4 computer-readable program means for selecting an XML style sheet based on said at least
5 one of the type of client device and the type of said processed information; and

6 computer-readable program means for completing said XML style sheet with said
7 processed information.

1 22. The article of manufacture of claim 21 wherein said computer-readable program means
2 for delivering, by the communications module, said processed information to a client device
3 further comprises:

4 computer-readable program means for transforming said completed XML style sheet to a
5 form suitable for display on said client device; and

6 computer-readable program means for providing said transformed style sheet suitable for
7 display on said client device to said client device.